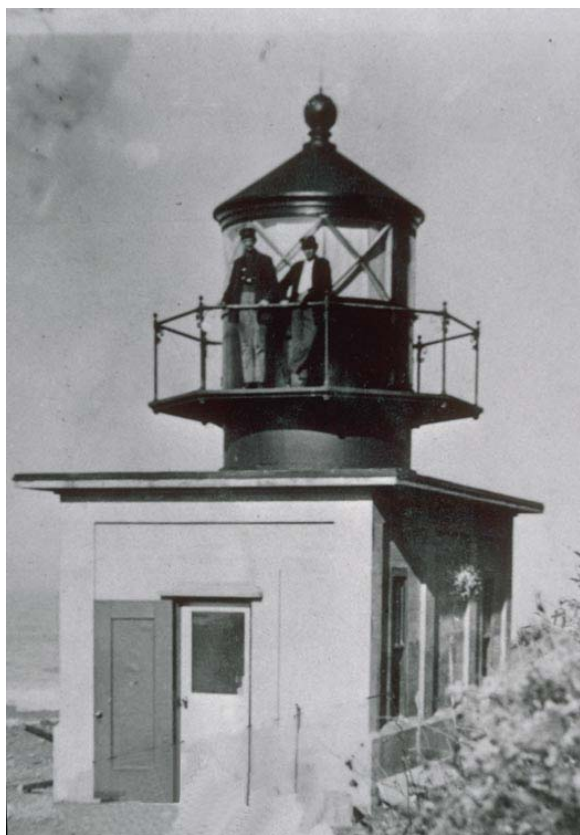


KRNCA in varying states of preservation and are subject to a number of natural and human-induced impacts. Efforts to eliminate or at least minimize some of these impacts have been implemented in recent years. While some of these efforts have been highly successful, some have not and numerous resources remain subject to the cumulative effects of weather, erosion, and vandalism.

Archaeological investigations have occurred in the KRNCA over the course of the last 70 years, though not in any systematic manner until relatively recently. Archaeological surveys of the King Range have been conducted primarily by Sonoma State University, U.C. Davis, and the BLM since the 1970s. These documented a number of cultural resources on the beach, at the mouths of major tributaries, and on some interior ridges and drainages (Levulett 1979, 1981, 1985; Levulett and Hildebrandt 1987; McGeachy and Bell 1979; Praetzelis 1995; Roscoe 1983; Rumph 1982; Tuttle 1982). As a result of these research efforts, over 100 prehistoric and historic sites have been documented. Of these, 17 (all located along the coastal strand) have been subjected to subsurface testing or excavation. The accumulated data were used to develop the King Range Cultural Resource Management Plan in 1988, which included site-specific recommendations for protection, stabilization, data recovery, and monitoring.



*The Punta Gorda Lighthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places.*

Active management of cultural resources began in 1974 when the King Range Management Program was approved by the Secretary of the Interior, the United States Congress, and the Governor of California and was endorsed by Humboldt and Mendocino Counties. At that time, the BLM contracted with Dr. David Fredrickson and Sonoma State University to conduct a comprehensive archaeological survey of the King Range coastal strand. Prior to 1974, very few sites had been recorded. In the early 1950s, Robert Greengo surveyed the coastal strand from Cape Mendocino in the north to about a mile south of the mouth of the Mattole River. Greengo recorded four sites in that locale and conducted test excavations at one of the sites (Greengo 1950: Letter report and site records on file: BLM Arcata Field Office). In 1954, Bennyhoff, Elsasser, and Davis recorded sites and did test excavations at Shelter Cove for a local landowner who had contacted U.C. Berkeley because of burials eroding out of the beach terrace (Macchi and Kroeber 1954: Correspondence plus letter report and site records from Elsasser, Davis, and Bennyhoff on file: BLM Arcata Field Office). This site, CA-Hum-182, became the focal point for future excavations by field schools in the 1980s due

to ongoing erosion and development projects. Valerie Levulett conducted surveys of the higher terraces and upper reaches of the King Range including ridges and inland areas, as well as revisiting all the coastal sites recorded by Fredrickson et al. (Levulett 1979, 1981, 1985).

Historic resources within the KRNCA have more recently begun receiving attention. Rodney Mayer of the Ukiah BLM nominated the Punta Gorda lighthouse to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1975; it was subsequently listed in 1976. In the early 1990s, the BLM implemented a cooperative project with Sonoma State University under the direction of Dr. Adrian Praetzelis, historic archaeologist, to record and evaluate all historic structures and ruins in the KRNCA. Architectural drawings and comprehensive records were produced for all structures, along with pertinent archival research. In addition, local ranchers were interviewed and oral histories were recorded as part of this project.

### 3.4.2 Applicable Regulatory Framework

As a property owned and managed by the BLM, the KRNCA is subject to the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966. Section 106 work is streamlined and modified under The California Protocol of 1998 between the BLM and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). This Programmatic Agreement (PA) has been reviewed annually and is used in conjunction with the BLM Manual Sections 8100-8160 after replacing the PA from 1991. Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into consideration the potential effects of proposed undertakings on cultural resources listed on or determined potentially eligible for inclusion on the NRHP, and to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment on the proposed undertaking. The regulations implementing Section 106 are promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior, as codified in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. Formal consultation is normally conducted between the SHPO and the BLM State Director or Deputy Preservation Officer.

Identification, evaluation, and management of cultural resources are ongoing processes. The evaluation of resources against the criteria for inclusion on the NRHP, including an assessment of site integrity or condition, the consideration of potential project-related impacts, and the development of management plans and actions relative to those impacts are additional elements of the Section 106 process.

Determining the NRHP eligibility of a site or district is guided by the specific legal context of the site's significance as set out in 36 CFR Part 60.4, and by the BLM Manual 8100 Series. The NHPA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to maintain and expand a National Register of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. A property may be listed if it meets criteria for evaluation as defined in 36 CFR 60.4:

“The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and:

- That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.”

Most prehistoric archaeological sites are evaluated with regard to Criterion D of the NRHP, which refers to site data potential. Such sites typically lack historical documentation that might otherwise adequately describe their important characteristics. Archaeological methods and techniques are applied to gain an understanding of the types of information that may be recovered from these deposits. Data sought are those recognized to be applicable to scientific research questions or to other cultural values. For example, shellfish remains from an archaeological deposit can provide information about the nature of prehistoric peoples' diets, foraging range, exploited environments, environmental conditions and seasons during which various shellfish species were taken. These are data of importance to scientific research that can lead to the reconstruction of prehistoric life-ways. Conversely, some archaeological sites are of traditional or spiritual significance to contemporary Native Americans or other groups, particularly those sites which are known to contain human burials.

Site integrity is also a consideration for the NRHP eligibility of an archaeological locale. The aspects of resources for which integrity is generally assessed include location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. These may be compromised to some extent by cultural and post-depositional factors (e.g., construction, maintenance, erosion, bioturbation, grazing, recreational use, etc.), yet the resource may still retain its integrity if the important information residing in the site survives. Conversely, archaeological materials such as shell or faunal remains may not be present in sufficient quantity or may not have adequate preservation for accurate identification. Thus, their potential as data to address important research questions is significantly reduced. Assessment of these qualities is particularly important for archaeological properties where the spatial relationships of artifacts and features are necessary to determine the patterns of past human behavior.

### **3.4.3 Existing Conditions**

#### ***3.4.3.1 Documented Prehistoric Sites***

At least 90 prehistoric sites have been identified within the KRNCA, the majority of which having been documented on or within a short distance from the coast. The favorable topography, numerous perennial stream courses, and diversity of floral and faunal resources, made these coastal areas highly attractive for prehistoric occupation. Consequently, numerous sites have been found in these areas. However, it is important to note that the concentration of sites along the coast may not necessarily reflect the entire range of prehistoric patterns of land use within the King Range and surrounding region. While beaches and near-beach areas were clearly important locations for early Native American populations, the density of recorded sites along the coast may also reflect the relative ease with which such sites can be discovered and recorded by researchers.

The 1988 King Range Cultural Resource Management Plan included a comprehensive list of sites (prehistoric and historic) located within the KRNCA. It also included a rating system intended to prioritize coastal sites in terms of their data potential, integrity and the level of risk to site integrity. The classification system identifies the following five priority levels:

1. Sites which are subject to severe or ongoing impacts, which have not been tested in the past, and which appear to contain numerous or unique data (or whose data potential is unknown); all require annual monitoring.
2. Sites subject to impact, but at a slower rate than those described above, which have not been tested, and which appear to contain numerous or unique data (or whose data potential is unknown); all require monitoring every 3 years.
3. Sites which have been tested and shown to contain diagnostic, unique, or otherwise valuable data, or where the sampling was incomplete; all require monitoring every 3 years.
4. Sites which have been tested and found to contain data redundant with those of other sites in the research area, but where enough deposit remains to allow additional data collection (e.g., for testing of specific research questions or methods); all require monitoring every 5 years.
5. Sites located on private land; such lands should be acquired as part of the King Range Acquisition program; failing this, BLM should seek preservation easements for these sites; in the meantime, sites should be monitored regularly, with owners' permission.

The individual site priority level also bears on potential eligibility for the NRHP. Levels of Site Prioritization and Categorization are also set forth in the BLM Manual (8110.4) and the Use Categories are as follows:

- Scientific Use
- Conservation for Future Use
- Traditional Use
- Public Use
- Experimental Use
- Discharged from Management

### ***3.4.3.2 Historic Sites***

In general, prehistoric cultural resources in the KRNCA have received a fair amount of attention from researchers over the past 50 years. Equally important, but less investigated, are the numerous historic remains within the KRNCA that are associated with various occupations and industries. Mining, ranching, tanbark, farming, logging, transportation, recreation, and shipping have all played important roles in the historical development of the King Range area.

Shelter Cove, in particular, was an important Humboldt County shipping port and statistics from 1881 reflect not only the prominence of this port but also the importance of sheep ranching in the King Range area. In that year it was reported that 220,000 pounds of wool were exported from Shelter Cove (probably from the Shelter Cove Wharf and Warehouse Company). Tanbark, cut from tanoaks found throughout the NCA and utilized in leather tanning was also shipped from Shelter Cove (2,000 cords in 1905). The tanbark industry died out in the early years of the 20th century as the cheaper and quicker chrome tanning method (first patented in 1884 by an American, Augustus Schultz) was fully adopted by the leather industry (see: [www.all-about-leather.co.uk](http://www.all-about-leather.co.uk)). Other major shipping points for tanbark were

also located in Bear Harbor and near Mattole Beach where a wharf extended into the ocean at Sea Lion Rock. Due to rough seasonal weather, this facility could not be employed during the winter months.



*Few traces remain of the railroad tracks and wharf at the Mattole River mouth.*

Few traces of the King Range's tanbark industry remain today except for some of the transportation routes, local place names and minor elements of the shipping facilities and wharves at Shelter Cove and near Mattole Beach. However, another of the major local industries, ranching, has left very tangible evidence on the landscape. The Chambers Ranch, situated near Mattole Beach, consists of a cabin and associated stock pens, barns, and other structures and is likely eligible for listing on the NRHP. Other ranching and farming-related structures and buildings occur in many areas within the King Range and many have been formally documented by the BLM.

Early recreational use of the King Range resulted in the construction of several hunting cabins and at least one complex of cabins and more substantial structures located on King Peak Road (which used to be called Horse Mountain Road), on Horse Mountain Ridge. Based on construction techniques and materials still visible in the building remains and associated artifacts, these facilities appear to have been constructed sometime before the 1920s or 1930s although they were still in use at least until the 1960s and 1970s.

Another group of structural remains, including a substantial cut stone foundation, are located along King Peak Road. Artifacts found in the area indicate an occupation as early as the late 19th century for this site with continued use of the property well into the 1950s or later. While General Land Office (GLO) plats do list the local homesteaders and their occupations, little information regarding this particular site has been found. However, it may have also served other purposes related to any of the industries and economic pursuits common to the King Range area during the latter half of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

#### **3.4.4 Management Issues and Considerations**

There are four predominant forces affecting prehistoric and historic cultural resources situated within the KRNCA: natural erosion, recreational use, livestock trampling/wallowing, and rodent burrowing. The natural forces of weathering and erosion are impacting many of the coastal Native American sites in

particular, as well as a number of historic sites such as the Punta Gorda lighthouse. Prehistoric occupation and burial sites are constantly being impacted by wave action and stream erosion, particularly during the winter months when heavy seas batter the coastline. The historic Chambers Ranch, including the cabin and associated ranch buildings, is also subject to climatic stresses although it remains in generally good condition.

Illegal activities have also caused damage to area cultural resources. Notable impacts include vehicles driving through sites (including those clearly marked), vandalism of the Chambers Ranch, destruction of an early recreational cabin on Horse Mountain Ridge, and the intentional destruction of fences protecting prehistoric sites near Mattole Beach. However, in general, vandalism appears to be the lesser of the management issues within the KRNCA and the impacts of natural erosion and weathering are more pressing concerns.

Sheep and cattle have been pastured on the coast area since the mid-19th century. Approximately 290 head of cattle are pastured in the KRNCA in any given year. These cattle tend to create extensive wallows, which can impact documented and unrecorded prehistoric sites in particular. Fences were constructed around some sites by the BLM to keep the cattle out of sensitive areas. However, cattle also congregate in and adjacent to the creeks in the KRNCA, which is where the many village sites were located. Wallowing and trampling can break surface artifacts, disturb the sandy soil, and shift the horizontal and vertical distribution of archaeological materials, severely impacting the integrity of cultural resources.

The BLM has implemented a number of measures in recent years to mitigate the effects of visitation, erosion, grazing, and bioturbation. Closure of the beach to OHV use has resulted in greater protection for prehistoric sites located in the sand dunes immediately adjacent to the beaches. The placement of interpretive signs and fencing has raised public awareness of the importance of such sites.

While fencing and site excavation may be the most expedient methods by which to preserve cultural resources and retrieve important scientific data, certain restrictions on these methods exist. Since the King Range CRMP was written, using fencing as a means to protect sites or restrict visitor access to certain areas has been discouraged by the BLM as it can degrade the visual and wilderness aspects of the KRNCA. Options such as plantings of various types of vegetation may have to be examined.

Concerning data collection on threatened sites, with the introduction of fairly recent regulations (NAGPRA, AIRFA, EO13007, etc.), any disturbance of sites in the KRNCA which may contain burials is avoided as preferred by the federally recognized Tribal entity; the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria. In the past, the Bear River Band has participated in all test excavations conducted to date. The BLM has a Tribal Resolution and a Plan of Action in place with the Tribal government. Consequently, data collection may only be conducted on sites in imminent danger of outright destruction.

#### ***3.4.4.1 Traditional Native American Uses***

Apart from the prehistoric and historic archaeological resources located within the KRNCA, a natural resource, bear grass, is an important plant species to many of the Native American groups currently inhabiting the region. Bear grass is a choice material for basket weaving, a traditional art form among Indian groups who have long-standing ethnographic ties to the region. It has been suggested that access

to certain areas of the KRNCA containing dense patches of bear grass be restricted only to qualified Native American groups. Such privileged restrictions, however, are not permitted by law for any group, including traditional Native American basket weavers.

Alternative means by which to preserve bear grass for Native American weavers will be considered in the plan. In addition, various bear grass habitat enhancement procedures may be effective, including controlled burns and the clearing of brush that opens an understory in which bear grass thrives. By expanding bear grass habitat in the KRNCA, the opportunities for gathering by the Native American community and other groups for traditional or economic pursuits would increase, reducing harvesting pressures on the limited existing distribution of the plant.

## 3.5 LANDS AND REALTY

### 3.5.1 Legislative History and the Land Acquisition Program

In 1929, the unreserved public domain lands in the King Range area were withdrawn from settlement or disposition by Executive Order 5237, pending classification. This was done at the request of the California State Division of Beaches and Parks due to the area's recreation potential (Congressional Record 1961, at 10182). However, no action was taken to classify the lands; they were closed to settlement or transfer, but not actively managed by the BLM for several decades. However, in the 1950s the area came to the attention of Congressman Clem Miller, who first introduced a bill to establish the KRNCA in 1961. His vision for the area was tied to comments made to Congress by President John F. Kennedy that same year, directing that public lands should be devoted to productive uses and maintained for future generations. Miller believed that outdoor recreation, at the time rising rapidly in popularity, could be balanced on equal footing with traditional extractive uses of public lands, and that efficient management of the King Range would require consolidation of the area's "crazy quilt" land ownership pattern (Congressional Record 1961, at 10181).<sup>18</sup> His bill enjoyed a surprising consensus of support, including such diverse interests as the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, the Humboldt County Cattlemen's Association and Farm Bureau, the Sierra Club, and a local group called the Mattole Action Committee (Hastey 1995).<sup>19</sup>

Miller died unexpectedly in a plane crash in 1962, but his successor Congressman Don Clausen continued to support the bill through the 1960s, and it was passed and signed into law in 1970 (Public Law 91-476). It authorized land acquisition by either purchase or exchange, and has been described as a "mini-organic act for the BLM," including a number of innovative management ideas and authorities for the agency (Hastey 1995). The Act is also considered an important precursor to FLPMA, which passed in the 1976 and serves as the basic guiding legislation for the BLM today.

At the time the KRNCA Act was signed in 1970, the BLM owned and managed roughly 30,000 acres within the boundaries delineated in the Act. The designated area also included approximately 24,000

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<sup>18</sup> Miller had also been active in passing the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960, defining "multiple use" as a balance of uses within an entire system, rather than the presence of every use on every tract of land. The KRNCA was originally conceived of as a "pilot BLM multiple use area" (Peterson 1996, at 11).

<sup>19</sup> Undated "KRNCA Legislative History" states that Miller introduced his first bill "after extensive consultation with residents of neighboring communities."

acres of privately owned land. These private holdings were scattered throughout the KRNCA (see Figure 3-7), many of which were held by timber companies, plus the densely-platted (although with only 40 homes built at the time) subdivision of Shelter Cove and a scattered community of rural residences in Whale Gulch. The 1974 Management Program characterized the area as having active subdivision interest, yet actual residential construction had been very limited and the growth trend slow (BLM 1974).

The 1970 Act gave the BLM authority to acquire private lands via purchase or exchange, but only from willing sellers as long as the land use was compatible with the purposes of the Act (PL 91-476, Section 5(2)). Land exchange was the favored method, as a way of both consolidating BLM ownership in the King Range and relieving it of management responsibility for widely-scattered parcels, which were difficult and more expensive to manage, located in other parts of Humboldt County. In this way, both the BLM and private owners were seen to win, as management of both private and public lands could be more efficient and comprehensive. The Act also included limited condemnation authority, while stressing that acquisition by this method would only occur if all other methods had proved unsuccessful for parcels where the uses of the property were clearly incompatible with the overall purposes and objectives of the KRNCA. The Act specifically did not intend to eliminate private holdings or private enterprise from the conservation area, as they were “expected and encouraged to continue and to contribute to the overall economy and attractiveness of the area” (U.S. Congress 1970, at 3). Instead, the Act aimed to acquire most of the private land within the area through working with willing sellers: “The Department will attempt to acquire most of the private lands within the area except those in the Shelter Cove Development” (U.S. Congress 1970, at 10).

## 3.5.2 Existing Conditions

### 3.5.2.1 Land Acquisition

To date, BLM has acquired roughly 25,700 acres within the planning area, out of a total of 67,438 acres. The vast majority of this acquisition, roughly 23,000 acres or 90 percent of the total, took place between 1973-1984 (see Appendix C for detail). The bulk of this acreage has been acquired by exchange, representing 46 parcels and over 22,200 acres, while 69 parcels have been purchased totaling only 3,076 acres.<sup>20</sup> In addition, four parcels adding up to not quite an acre were donated, and two parcels were condemned (due to development incompatible with the Act) for a total of 440 acres. In recent years acquisitions have been from willing sellers and all have been relatively small parcels. Since 1984, there have been 64 individual parcels acquired (out of a total of 120), but totaling only a little over 2,200 acres.

5,735 acres are still in private ownership within the KRNCA boundary, 2,966 acres of which are located outside of the Shelter Cove subdivision (see Figure 3-8). The BLM continues to acquire private lands within the area, with priority placed on coastal acquisitions from willing sellers. There were three life estate/reservations of right, all dating from the mid-1980s, for the access and use of private dwellings on acquired land, but only one currently remains active. The King Range Act does not allow for disposal of public lands within the KRNCA boundary.

<sup>20</sup> Approximately 12,800 acres of BLM lands outside the KRNCA area went to private owners in these exchanges, many of which were timber lands. (Total is 186,618 thousand board feet of timber exchanged out, while the BLM gained 6,386 tbf.)



Several community groups have championed land acquisition efforts in the region surrounding the KRNCA to conserve old-growth forests and watershed values. Three acquisition areas (Mill Creek, Indian Creek, and Squaw Creek) directly adjoin the KRNCA. These lands are now under BLM management and are included in this RMP. Two additional community-driven conservation efforts within the vicinity of the KRNCA are the Redwoods to Sea Corridor and Sanctuary Forest projects. The vision of the Redwoods to Sea project is to develop a wildlife/ecological corridor linking the King Range to Humboldt Redwoods State Park using a combination of land acquisitions and conservation easements. This project includes approximately 5,000 acres of land now under BLM stewardship. The Sanctuary Forest project focuses on the headwaters of the Mattole River, in an area of old-growth redwood forest and critical salmon spawning habitat cooperatively managed as the Upper Mattole River and Forest Cooperative. BLM lands make up a much smaller component of this project.

### *3.5.2.2 Rights of Way*

The KRNCA has fifteen road rights-of-way, required to provide ingress/egress to private lands over federal lands. All of these follow existing roadways. Individual right-of-way agreements and requirements regarding access to private lands are beyond the scope of this plan and will not be discussed. Several BLM roads also provide access to private lands outside of the KRNCA boundary. These include the Noonung Creek Road, Finley Ridge Road, Paradise Ridge Road, and Prosper Ridge Road. In addition, the KRNCA includes the following utility and other rights-of-way:

- Power transmission lines: 2
- Telephone/Telegraph: 1 (Shelter Cove Road)
- Water Facilities: 1 (near Kaluna Cliff, for transport water over public land onto private land; State of California determines water permit)
- Other: 1 (Research facility on Lighthouse Road, housing the Mattole Salmon Group's fish hatchery)
- Communication Site: 1 (Verizon, one tower on Paradise Ridge)

### *3.5.2.3 Rights-of-Way Involving Water Diversions*

Occasionally, neighboring property owners seek a right-of-way from the BLM to appropriate either groundwater or surface water from public lands. To date, requests for this purpose have been limited in the KRNCA, but are expected to increase as the population of the area grows. Surface water is defined as all perennial and seasonal seeps, springs, creeks, streams, and rivers. Although the impact of any one individual surface water diversion is typically small or immeasurable, cumulative diversions in a watershed can consume a significant portion of the in-stream flow. Due to geologic constraints and cost, groundwater use occurs infrequently in the area. Appropriation of groundwater can also result in reduced base flows in surface water bodies, although to a lesser extent than a direct diversion of surface water. As such, appropriation of groundwater is often ecologically preferable to diversion of surface water, and requires a case-by-case evaluation to properly determine the potential environmental consequences, if any.

### **3.5.2.4 BLM Water Rights**

In California, water rights are administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). To protect water rights in the King Range, the BLM is required to establish and maintain these rights under the same set of priorities afforded private landowners. There are two types of water rights, riparian and appropriative. In order to assure that new upstream water diversions do not result in adverse consequences to public resources in the King Range, the BLM would be required to assert its water rights to protect minimum in-stream flows required for fisheries and riparian habitat, as allowed by California law.

Currently, none of the surface water bodies within the King Range has been identified as fully appropriated, implying that there is sufficient flow to support new diversions of water for agricultural, domestic, or industrial use. However, if upstream water demand grows in the future, it might not be possible for the BLM to ensure the minimum in-stream flows required for protection of public lands and resources unless water rights are established and maintained. Water rights priorities are established “first in time, first in right.”

The BLM either has, or is in the process of obtaining water rights in at least ten locations in the KRNCA, primarily to benefit wildlife values and grazing leases. The BLM has no instream flow rights and there was no Federal Reserved Water Right obtained with the establishment of the area as an NCA.

## **3.6 INVENTORY UNITS AND STUDY AREAS**

### **3.6.1 Lands Possessing Wilderness Characteristics**

#### **3.6.1.1 Applicable Regulatory Framework**

Section 603 of the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directed the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to review roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more having wilderness characteristics and to recommend to the President the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness. In determining these wilderness values, the law directs the BLM to use the criteria given by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964. In Section 2(c) of that Act, Congress states that wilderness is essentially an area of undeveloped federal land in a natural condition, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The original inventory phase of this process, initiated in 1978, involved examining the public lands to determine and locate the existence of areas containing wilderness characteristics that met the criteria established in the Wilderness Act. This inventory process, with a general description of all of California's Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), was published in *Wilderness: Final Intensive Inventory, Public Lands Administered by BLM California Outside the California Desert Conservation Area* (BLM 1979a). Subsequently in 1988, BLM issued the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Arcata Resource Area King Range WSA and Chemise Mountain WSA*, incorporating the wilderness recommendations into the planning process through an amendment to the Arcata Management Framework Plan.

Two Wilderness Study Areas, (the King Range and Chemise Mountain WSAs) totaling approximately 38,000 acres, were evaluated in the 1988 EIS. The BLM recommended to Congress that 24,960 acres be designated wilderness. Congress has the sole authority to designate an area as wilderness. Wilderness continues to be a major issue and various legislative proposals are being developed and debated, no definitive wilderness determination has yet been made for the King Range or Chemise Mountain WSAs. Until Congress decides whether to designate the areas as wilderness, the entire WSA acreage will be managed in accordance with the Bureau's *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* (1995). This policy lays out protective measures to prevent impairment of an area's suitability for preservation as wilderness. Consequently, both the King Range and Chemise Mountain WSAs are presently being managed under these guidelines, and will continue to be until either designated by Congress as Wilderness or released from protective management under Interim Management guidelines (see Figure 3-9).

### 3.6.1.2 *Wilderness Characteristic Assessment*

Since the original wilderness inventory was conducted in 1978-79, there have been numerous land acquisitions both adjacent to and within the WSAs. In addition, some intrusions, such as old logging roads, have rehabilitated naturally and in some locations have been physically decommissioned, recontoured, and replanted, and are successfully reverting back to a more natural condition. In 2003, as part of the development of this RMP and EIS, these specific type areas within or adjacent to the King Range and Chemise Mountain WSAs were examined to determine if they have wilderness characteristics.



*The Squaw Creek headwaters area is an example of lands that have returned to a more natural character.*

Twelve parcels of public land containing 10,327 acres adjacent to the King Range WSA were evaluated, and three parcels containing 215 acres adjacent to the Chemise Mountain WSA. Out of that total, 10,259 acres were found to meet the minimum criteria for wilderness characteristics (see Figure 3-10). This acreage was carried forward into the plan alternatives for analysis (see Section 3.8). Also, the entire 200

acres of purchased inholdings were found to possess wilderness characteristics. This assessment is on file with the BLM King Range office and is available for public review.

Because all parcels evaluated are adjacent to an existing WSA, the size requirement for lands possessing wilderness characteristics was met. In addition, those units found to possess wilderness characteristics all appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and exhibit outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or unconfined recreation. Most parcels also contain one or more outstanding supplemental values.

### **3.6.2 Wild and Scenic Rivers**

#### ***3.6.2.1 Applicable Regulatory Framework***

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542) was passed by Congress to preserve riverine systems that contain outstanding features. The law was enacted during an era when many rivers were being dammed or diverted, and is intended to balance this development by ensuring that certain rivers and streams remain in their free-flowing condition. The BLM is mandated to evaluate stream segments on public lands as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) during the Resource Management Plan (RMP) Process under Section 5(d) of the Act. The NWSRS study guidelines are found in BLM Manual 8351, U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior Guidelines published in Federal Register Vol. 7, No.173, September 7, 1982 and in various BLM memoranda and policy statements. Formal designation as a Wild and Scenic River requires Congressional Legislation, or designation can be approved by the Secretary of Interior if nominated by the Governor of the state containing the river segment. There are no existing Wild and Scenic Rivers designations within the King Range.

#### ***3.6.2.2 Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Vicinity of the King Range***

The closest rivers to the King Range with existing Wild and Scenic designation are the Trinity, Van Duzen, and Eel Rivers. The South Fork Trinity and Van Duzen Rivers are approximately 20-40 miles inland and north of the planning area. The South Fork of the Eel River flows northward just inland from the planning area.

Several streams that adjoin the planning area were studied in the 1995 Arcata Resource Management Plan Amendment. These included short segments of the Mattole River and Bridge Creek (both near the King Range Administrative Site), and Jewett Creek. All three of these segments were found to be eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic system. No suitability determination was made at that time. Segments of Squaw Creek and Shoals Creek were found ineligible.

As part of this planning effort, all rivers and streams in the planning area were evaluated for their eligibility and suitability for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. A total of 34 stream segments were evaluated. The results of this evaluation are contained in Appendix D.